

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ed Austin, et al. Art Unit : 3733  
Serial No. : 10/607,010 Examiner : Richard R. Shaffer  
Filed : June 26, 2003 Conf. No. : 4956  
Title : EXTERNAL FIXATION APPARATUS AND METHOD

**MAIL STOP AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN REPLY TO FINAL ACTION OF DECEMBER 1, 2008

Please amend the above-identified application as follows and consider the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in a listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.